(b) whether it is also a fact that nine sites for installation of WVM at Old Delhi Railway Station have been allotted to the aforesaid company by Northern Railways; and

(c) if so, under what circumstances, four kiosks have recently been opened at Old Delhi Station where AVM has been installed *in lieu* of WVM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No Automatic Vending Machine (AVM) kiosk has been opened in lieu of Water Vending Machine (WVM) at old Delhi Railway station.

Development of Western Corridor

2740. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is planning of Government to develop western corridor from JNPT to Delhi *via* Vadodara-Ahmedabad-Palanpur-Jaipur-Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed Western Dedicated Freight Corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed *via* Vadodara – Ahmedabad – Palanpur – Rewari to Tughlakabad/Dadri. As per the present estimate, the project costing Rs.16,592 crore is targeted for completion in about 5 years after the start of construction of the project.

Employment to dependents of victims of Mumbai blasts

2741. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to starred Question No.2 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 2007, and state:

(a) the number of dependents of the victims of the Mumbai blasts of 11th July, 2006 who submitted application for employment;

(b) the number out of them who are under metric, metric, and higher secondary, graduates and postgraduates; and

(c) whether Railway propose to reconsider as a special case their decision to give at least group 'C' employment to graduates and postgtaduates as group 'D', employment for them would be un-reasonable and humiliating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 124 (One hundred twenty four).

(b) Under matric–15, Matric–16, Higher Secondary/Diploma–36, Graduates–30 and Postgraduates–07. Besides these, seventeen candidates are still studying and three have not yet submitted documents.

(c) There is no provision in the rules for appointment to dependents of victims of accidents/bomb blasts on the railways in Group 'C' and 'D'. However, Railways in exception to the rules, purely as a humanitarian gesture, have taken a decision to provide employment to the wards/legal heirs of the victims of Mumbai bomb blast case in Group 'D' category only. Hence, question does not arise to reconsider their case for appointment in Group 'C' categories as a special case.

Vidarbha Queen

†2742. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "the Vidarbha Queen' a tourist train to be run on the Nagpur-Nagabhir route in Maharashtra is ready for operation;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by when this train would be started on the Nagpur-Nagabhir route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Running of "Vidarbha Queen" the proposed tourist train between Nagpur and Nagabhir is under examination in this Ministry.

Water supply project

2743. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any time-frame programme for getting permission for railway crossings for the purpose of development projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that several proposals for permissions of railway crossings for various water supply projects are pending with Railway Authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Time frame depends upon fulfilment of certain pre-requisites including deposit of cost of work way leave charges etc. by the party concerned. As soon as firm proposals are received efforts are made to grant permission without any delay. However, no time schedule is prescribed yet priority is assigned based on funds deposit by outside agencies and importance of the work.

(b) Yes, Sir. Number of proposals are pending for fulfilment of certain requisites under extant rules.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.